

RM-10867    The proposal as stated by ARRL is the most practical. It takes into consideration the fact that Morse Code is not now the standard for of communication in the U.S. and around the world. Thirty years ago it was. Technology has changed, modes of communication have improved. Very few actually rely upon using CW in their communications procedures. MARS does not and many countries do not either. Digital and other forms of more reliable communications methods have taken front stage and require less power to accomplish their intended purpose, to convey information from sender to recipient. The Exam Question Pool should be updated but still should remain available for study and refresher information. The "Hobby" has changed and is evolving more as we speak. The AMATEUR needs the ability to have protected Band Assignments and to be encouraged to gain proficiency even though it is not a requirement for a ticket. That is the fun of experimentation. Special recognition could be placed upon those who successfully promote the use of all forms of communication as emphasis is placed on types and numbers of contacts made. The Extra Class should retain the CW requirement but allow the new "Novice" ticket to be implemented and allow the current Technician licensee to move into the next realm so they are encouraged to improve their skills and proficiency in the entire realm of "HAM Amateur" radio and worldwide, emergency, and hobby communications. I also ask that the FCC accept credit for those who served in teh military in a communications MOS and who passed the curriculum at a recognized military training school for their field assignments. The days of telegraphy documents are gone, and it is very hard for anyone to be able to prove prior accomplishments when only archaic documents are allowed. I served in the Naval Security Group as a Communications Technician and had nine months of CW and Theory training in Pensacola, FL as my DD-214N will show. Thank you.